

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03810 081209Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0914

S E C R E T SEOUL 3810

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV KS US

SUBJ: KIM DONG-JO

REF: A. SEOUL 3692, B. STATE 111022

1. SINCE RECEIPT OF REFTEL B WE HAVE CONTINUALLY URGED ROKG THROUGH BOTH MOFA AND KCIA CHANNELS TO, AT A MINIMUM, INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR KIM TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE WITH THE HILL REGARDING KIM DONG-JO ALIVE. IN THIS RESPECT, MAY 4 STATEMENT BY SENATOR STEVENSON WAS MOST USEFUL. BOTH MOFA AND KCIA EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING FOR THE IMPORTANCE AT THIS TIME OF KEEPING THE DIALOGUE GOING AND STATED THAT THEY BELIEVED ROK EMBASSY WASHINGTON ALSO AWARE OF THIS REQUIREMENT. MOFA STATED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN AMBASSADOR KIM'S INSTRUCTIONS THAT WOULD PRECLUDE CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH JAWORSKI AND STEVENSON. WE URGED THAT ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS MAKING THIS POINT EXPLICIT BE SENT.

2. WHILE WE FULLY AGREE THAT FOR THE INTERIM IT WOULD BE WELL IF WE COULD STRING OUT DISCUSSIONS ON THE KIM
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DONG-JO MATTER, AS WE POINTED OUT REFTEL A, WE DO NOT SEE EXTREMELY POSITIVE RESULT IN ANY EVENT. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT THERE MAY BE SOME UTILITY IN CONSIDERING FOLLOWING SUGGESTION SHOULD IT APPEAR THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE FOUNDERING AND THAT ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTICIPANTS MAY WISH TO MAKE THIS FACT PUBLIC. IN SUCH AN EVENT WE THINK IT MIGHT BE ENTIRELY POSSIBLE FOR US TO PERSUADE

THE ROKG THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO MIGHT ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE PLACE A CALL TO SPEAKER O'NEILL. HE COULD INFORM THE SPEAKER OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM TELEPHONICALLY THEN OR TO CALL BACK AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME IF THE SPEAKER WISHED TO HAVE MR. JAWORSKI PRESENT. KIM COULD FURTHER STATE THAT THIS PROCEDURE WAS THE BEST AVAILABLE, GIVEN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION, AND COULD OFFER TO FOLLOW UP WITH A WRITTEN STATEMENT IF THIS SHOULD BE NECESSARY.

3. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN REJECTED BY JAWORSKI AS ONE TO WHICH HE COULD AGREE, WE THINK IT MIGHT HAVE UTILITY AS A LAST ACT GESTURE. IN THIS REGARD, KOREANS WOULD HAVE INITIATED THE LAST ATTEMPT TO SETTLE THE MATTER, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING CONTINUED DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH OBVIOUS VIENNA CONVENTION RESTRAINTS. WHILE THIS EFFORT MIGHT BE CHARACTERIZED IN CONGRESS AS INADEQUATE, IT WOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE BETTER THAN HAVING CONGRESS STATE THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO REACH ANY BASIS FOR COOPERATION.

DEPENDING UPON HOW THE MAY 8 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KIM PROGRESSES, DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO BEAR IN MIND ABOVE SUGGESTION. SNEIDER

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